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LETTER DATED 19 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GREECE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In view of the public statements made yesterday by the Prime Minister of Turkey and other Turkish officials containing threats against Greece and Cyprus on the pretext of a training flight of four Greek air force jets to Cyprus, my Government has instructed me to bring to your attention the continuing provocative attitude of the Turkish Government and its systematic practice of threatening the use of force in connection with Greek-Turkish relations and the Cyprus problem.

In this context, I would like to reiterate to you the firm commitment of the Greek Government to a solution of the Cyprus problem within the framework of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, as well as to the improvement of Greek-Turkish relations on the basis of and in accordance with international law and treaties, as stated in the attached aide-mémoire.

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Christos ZACHARAKIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Greece
to the United Nations

Annex

Aide-mémoire dated 19 June 1998

1. Flights of Greek air force jets to Cyprus have repeatedly taken place, in the past, upon invitation of the Government of Cyprus. It is within this framework that a short training visit of four aircraft was carried out to the airbase of Paphos.

2. The said visit can hardly be regarded as a threat, taking also into consideration the fact that Greece does not threaten anybody and does not intend to use or to threaten to use force. On the contrary, it is Turkey who constantly violates the territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus with numerous overflights and landings of military aircraft on the occupied northern part of the island and keeps resorting to threats of use of force, completely ignoring the well-known proposals that have been submitted by President Clerides since 1993 with regard to the total demilitarization of Cyprus.

3. It should also be noted that, while the Turkish Government pretends to be extremely concerned about security and stability in the region, it has rushed to reject the proposal made by the Greek Foreign Minister for the establishment of a no-flight zone over Cyprus.

4. In the light of the above, the allegations of the Turkish side concerning any link between the aforementioned training visit and the future installation of the defensive S-300 missile system in Cyprus are utterly arbitrary.

5. The Greek Government fails to perceive the real meaning of these Turkish reactions and threats, which obviously conceal other motives and aims. In this regard, it is worth remembering Turkey's tendency to provoke artificial tensions on the eve of important meetings of the European Union, where Turkey's relations with Europe are being discussed.

6. Greece remains committed to a solution to the Cyprus problem based on the relevant Security Council resolutions. In particular, the Greek Government firmly insists on the implementation of provisions regarding the gradual disarmament of Cyprus, aiming at its total demilitarization.

7. Finally, Greece wishes to reiterate its determination to continue to seek improvement in Greek-Turkish relations in accordance with international law and treaties.